

What is claimed is:

1. An adjustable assembly for a cargo box cover for use on a cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box, the cargo box cover having a left and right rail connected to said left and right side wall, an elongate tensioning rail having a left and right end said tensioning rail extending from said left rail to said right rail and further having a cover fixedly attached along said tensioning rail, said adjustable assembly comprising:

- a left and right block means connected to said left and right rail;
- a left and right attachment block means connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail; and
- an adjustable connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to said left and right rail.

2. An adjustable assembly as in claim 1 wherein each of said left and right block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a front and rear block section connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block section across said space between said front and rear block sections.

3. An adjustable assembly as in claim 2 wherein each of said left and right attachment block means comprises an attachment block section having an elongate threaded tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning said space between said front and rear block section.

4. An adjustable assembly as in claim 3 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block sections defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.

5. An adjustable assembly as in claim 4 further comprising a graduated measuring scale on said left and right rail so as to accurately adjust said left and right side of said tensioning rail in respect to said left and right rail.

6. An adjustable assembly as in claim 5 wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

7. An adjustable assembly as in claim 1 wherein said left and right block means is fixedly connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail and said left and right attachment block means is fixedly connected to said left and right rail.

8. An adjustable cover for a cargo box that comprises upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box, the adjustable cover assembly comprising:

25 a left and right rail connected to said left and right side wall;

an elongate tensioning rail having a left and right end said tensioning rail extending from said left rail to said right rail;

30 a left and right block means connected to said left and right rail;

35 a left and right attachment block means connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail; and

40 an adjustable connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to said left and right rail.

9. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 8 wherein each of said left and right block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a front and rear block section connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block sections across said space between said front and rear block sections.

10. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 9 wherein each of said left and right attachment block means comprises an attachment block section having an elongate threaded tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning said space between said front and rear block section.

11. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 10 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block section defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.

12. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 11 further comprising a graduated measuring scale on said left and right rail so as to accurately adjust said left and right side of said tensioning rail in respect to said left and right rail.

13. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 12 wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

14. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 8 wherein said left and right block means is fixedly connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail, and said left and right attachment block means is fixedly connected to said left and right rail.

15. (New) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo box, the cargo box having a plurality of 5 upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending 10 walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

15 left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively;

20 an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail;

25 left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; and

30 left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail; wherein each of said left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms

35 include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning 40 rail by each of the threaded screw members as said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket

45 mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover.

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16. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 15, wherein the tensioning rail includes a tensioning rail attachment chamber and each of said left and right tensioning rail attachment members is engaged within the tensioning rail attachment chamber.

17. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 16, wherein each of said left and right tensioning rail attachment members extends below the side rail with which it is engaged such that the tensioning rail is restrained from being lifted away from the respective side rails when the attachment members are engaged with the respective side rails.

18. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 15, wherein each of the pair of threaded screw members is engaged in coaxially aligned, reciprocally threaded openings in each of the respective side rail attachment bracket mechanisms.

19. (New) An adjustable cover assembly for a cargo box, the cargo box including upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, the adjustable cover assembly comprising:

left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively;

a tonneau cover having forward and rearward ends;

an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said elongate tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right side rail, the forward end of the tonneau cover being secured to the elongate tensioning rail;

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10 left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected with said left and right side rails, respectively; and

15 left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail; wherein each of said left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms include a threaded screw member,

20 and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw

25 members as said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover.

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20. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 19, wherein the tensioning rail includes a tensioning rail attachment chamber and each of said left and right tensioning rail attachment members is engaged within the tensioning rail attachment chamber.

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21. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 20, wherein each of said left and right tensioning rail attachment members extends below the side rail with which it is engaged such that the tensioning rail is

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restrained from being lifted away from the respective side rails when the attachment members are engaged with the respective side rails.

10 22. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 19, wherein each of the pair of threaded screw members is engaged in coaxially aligned, reciprocally threaded openings in each of the respective side rail attachment bracket mechanisms.

23. (New) An apparatus for varying the position of an end rail of a tonneau cover attachment frame used to secure a tonneau cover to a pickup truck cargo box, the attachment frame including at least one end rail and opposing left and right side rails, the tonneau cover being secured to the end rail, the apparatus comprising:

30 a first adjustment block mechanism, the first adjustment block mechanism being attached to one of said side rails; and

35 a first tensioning screw, the first tensioning screw operatively connected to the first adjustment block mechanism and movable with respect thereto, with the first tensioning screw configured and arranged to operatively contact the end rail; wherein movement of the first tensioning screw with respect to the first adjustment block

40 mechanism, in a direction toward the end rail, varies the position of the end rail with respect to the respective side rail.

45 24. (New) The apparatus of claim  
23, wherein the first tensioning

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5        screw is movable in a direction  
        generally parallel to the side rail and  
        wherein the end rail is slidably  
        engaged with the opposing left and  
5        right side rails and movable with  
        respect thereto in a generally  
        orthogonal, constrained manner.

10      25. (New) The apparatus of claim  
        23, further comprising a second  
        adjustment block mechanism, the  
        adjustment block mechanism being  
        attached to the other of said left and  
        right side rails, and

15      15        a second tensioning screw,  
        the second tensioning screw  
        operatively connected to the second  
        adjustment block mechanism and  
        movable with respect thereto, with

20      20        the second tensioning screw  
        configured and arranged to  
        operatively contact the end rail;  
        wherein movement of the second  
        tensioning screw with respect to the

25      25        second adjustment block  
        mechanism, in a direction toward  
        the end rail, varies the position of  
        the end rail with respect to the other  
        side rail.

30      30      26. (New) The apparatus of claim  
        25, wherein the second tensioning  
        screw is movable in a direction  
        generally parallel to the side rail.

35      35      27. (New) An apparatus for  
        shifting the position of a slideable  
        end rail of a tonneau cover  
        attachment frame that includes at

40      40      least one end rail and parallel left  
        and right side rails, the tonneau  
        cover being attached to the end rail,  
        wherein the end rail is slidably  
        connected to the parallel left and

45      45      right side rails and movable with  
        respect thereto in a generally

orthogonal, constrained manner, the apparatus comprising:

- 5       a first adjustment block mechanism, the first adjustment block mounted to the left side rail and configured to operably contact the end rail and, upon manipulation thereof, shift the position of the end rail with respect to the left side rail in a direction away from the first adjustment block mechanism; and,
  
- 15      a second adjustment block mechanism, the second adjustment block mounted to the right side rail and configured to operably contact the end rail and, upon manipulation thereof, shift the position of the end rail with respect to the right side rail in a direction away from the second adjustment block mechanism.
  
- 25      28. (New) A shifting apparatus which operatively contacts an end rail of a tonneau cover frame for attaching a tonneau cover to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the tonneau cover frame having parallel left and right side rails and an end rail, the tonneau cover being attached to the end rail, the apparatus comprising:
  
- 35      a first adjustment block mechanism, the first adjustment block attachably mounted to the left side rail and configured to operably contact the end rail and, upon manipulation thereof, shift the position of the end rail with respect to the left side rail; and,
  
- 45      a second adjustment block mechanism, the second adjustment block attachably mounted to the

right side rail and configured to operably contact the end rail and, upon manipulation thereof, shift the position of the end rail with respect to the right side rail wherein the end rail is slidingly engaged with the parallel left and right side rails and movable with respect thereto in a constrained manner.

29. (New) The shifting apparatus of Claim 28, wherein each of the first and second adjustment block mechanisms include a threaded screw members that is positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the end rail by each of the threaded screw members as said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the end rail away from the respective adjustment block mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover.

30. (New) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

40 left and right side rails connected to said left and right walls, respectively;

45 an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said elongate tensioning rail extending from said

left side rail to said right side rail, the  
tonneau cover being attached to the  
elongate tensioning rail;

- 5    left and right side rail attachment  
block mechanisms connected to  
said left and right side rails,  
respectively; and
- 10    left and right tensioning rail  
attachment blocks engaged with  
said left and right ends of said  
elongate tensioning rail,  
respectively, and each slidably  
engaging the respective side rail  
proximate the respective ends of the  
elongate tensioning rail such that  
the elongate tensioning rail is  
slidably engaged with the opposing
- 15    left and right side rails and movable  
with respect thereto in a generally  
orthogonal, constrained manner;  
wherein the left and right side rail  
attachment block mechanisms
- 20    include left and right screw  
members adjustably contacting said  
tensioning rail.
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- 30    31. (New) A method of  
maintaining an appropriate tension  
on a tonneau cover secured to a  
cargo box of a pickup truck, the  
pickup truck cargo box having a  
plurality of upwardly extending  
walls, said plurality of upwardly  
extending walls including left and  
right side walls, a front wall and a  
rear end gate wall, said plurality of  
upwardly extending walls at least  
partially defining an interior  
compartment of the cargo box; the  
method comprising:
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- 45    attaching a tonneau cover  
and a tonneau cover attachment  
frame having a tonneau cover

adjustment mechanism to the pickup truck, the tonneau cover attachment frame including left and right side rails which are connected to said left and right side walls, respectively; an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail; left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; the elongate tensioning rail including left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail; wherein each of said left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as each said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover; and

manipulating the respective attachment bracket mechanisms so as to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover following the step of attaching, at such time as it is desireable to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover.

32. (New) A method of maintaining an appropriate tension

on a tonneau cover secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box; the method comprising:

attaching a tonneau cover and a tonneau cover attachment frame having a tonneau cover adjustment mechanism to the pickup truck, the tonneau cover attachment frame including left and right side rails which are connected to said left and right side walls, respectively; an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail; left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; the elongate tensioning rail including left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail and positioned and arranged to sliding secure the elongate tensioning rail to the respective side rails; wherein each of said left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as each said screw member is adjustably

manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover; and

5       manipulating the respective attachment bracket mechanisms so as to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover following the step of attaching, at such time as it is desireable to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover.

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